

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /076 W
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R 281030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6058

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT, SF

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOKASSA INVITES VORSTER TO CAR, OFFERS TO
VISIT PRETORIA

1. IN NATIONALLY TELEVISED ADDRESS AUGUST 23, CAR PRESIDENT BOKASSA EXTENDED OFFICIAL INVITATION TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT VORSTER TO VISIT CAR. BOKASSA ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS OWN READINESS TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA JUST AS SOON AS THIS COULD BE ARRANGED. ANNOUNCEMENTS CAME ONE DAY AFTER PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM FRANCE AND DURING LARGE STATE BANQUET AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT WHICH BOKASSA PRESENTED TWO-MEMBER SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION AS HIS GUESTS OF HONOR TO CAR GOVERNMENT LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND SOME EIGHT HUNDRED OTHER GUESTS.

2. AT BOKASSA'S INVITATION SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION ACCOMPANIED HIM AUGUST 24-25 TO PRESIDENTIAL PARK AT N'DLE WITH SIX CABINET MEMBERS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INCLUDING EMBOFF. IN COURSE OF VISIT, BOKASSA REPEATED HIS INVITATION BOTH AT INFORMAL LUNCHEON AND FAREWELL MEETING. RSA DELEGATION LEADER DENNIS ORCHARD OF JOHANNESBURG CARRIED BACK VIDEO TAPE OF NATIONALLY TELEVISED BOKASSA SPEECH
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TO PRESENT TO SAG FONMIN AS CONFIRMATION OF OFFICIAL

INVITATION TO VORSTER.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION ASSESSED POSITIVELY PROSPECTS FOR VORSTER-BOKASSA MEETING, ADDING THAT ALTHOUGH THE FIRST PUBLIC INVITATION, THIS MARKED THE FOURTH TIME BOKASSA HAD INVITED VORSTER TO CAR. BOTH BOKASSA AND FORMER FONMIN POTOLOT WHO WAS IN PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEY EXPECTED A MEETING IN PRETORIA OR BANGUI WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS. MEANWHILE SAFAIR FLIGHTS WHICH BEGAN TWO MONTHS AGO CONTINUE TO ARRIVE TWICE WEEKLY FROM JOHANNESBURG WITH MATERIALS FOR NEW HOTEL COMPLEX AT BANGUI UNDER TERMS OF RAND SIX MILLION AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOCAR AND SAG. SWING

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